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COMBATING CONTAGIOUS DISEASE

Surgeon-General Wyman Tells of Progress in Sanitation and Public Health Reform in This Country.

By JAMES B. MORROW.

Many enormous guns, concealed within green and unsuspected slopes, among groves of peaceful forest trees, or in the flat sands of dreary coasts, frown out upon the sea. They are to drive back or destroy all visible foes who may come over the waters in armed ships.

Figuratively, and yet literally, in a sense, many little microscopes, toy rifles, seemingly, inverted in maimed warfare with the sky, are frown out upon the sea. They are to discover and destroy the invisible foes which, in like manner, may come over the waters, but in all sorts of ships.

So the shores, dropping far down the Atlantic and the Pacific and curving into the Gulf of Mexico, are vigilantly guarded by artillerymen and doctors. Cities and towns, in their physical structure, are safe. Property has always been bravely defended. Even the herdsmen of Abram, rich in cattle and gold, and of Lot, opulent in flocks and tents, fought with clubs and stones, no doubt, over the pastures of Canaan.

Modern philosophy and practice value man as highly—ethically, at any rate—as sheep, oxen, asses, or camels. The artillerymen have had ready and cheerful millions to work with. Their lives have gone into books and their photographs into newspapers. Mars in America has held his bow with mythology and history. In the interview I am about to write, my object shall be to show what the obscure and unromantic government doctor is doing to prolong and protect human life in the United States—to beat the germs as they come swarming in from Europe, Asia, and the islands and countries of the South Atlantic.

Little Army of Defense.
The little army of defense against the terrifying and deadly approach of fever, cholera, and the plague is commanded by Walter Wyman, M. D., who is officially known as Surgeon General of the Public Health and the Marine Hospital Service. He calls a messenger. "Give my compliments to Dr. Brown," he says, "and tell him I want to see him at 10 o'clock to-morrow morning." Wellington's tone and manner could not have been more punctilious or martial. The atmosphere of the office in which we talk is full of battle, the man himself is as formal, precise, and final as a general or an admiral.

Two lines of resistance have been established against the alien microbe. Vessels bearing immigrants from Japan, India, Europe, Central and South America, and the West Indies must carry bills of health signed by officers of the United States. There are quarantine doctors at every port of entry in this country. Throughout the fruit season in the islands to the south, in Mexico, and South America, when vessels must hurry to market with their cargoes, special inspectors in addition to the formal, precise, and final as a general or an admiral.

Progress of Sanitary Science.
"Is it likely," I asked, "that this country will ever suffer again from contagious or infectious diseases which will destroy thousands of human lives?"

"It would be unsafe and untrue to say," Gen. Wyman answered, "but sanitary and medical science have made so many discoveries that the devastating epidemic is hardly probable. Our knowledge concerning diseases has increased tremendously within recent years. We know, for instance, that cholera is a water-borne infection, and we have seen and studied the organism which causes it. If a ship with cholera were to come to New York or San Francisco, we should remove the sick to hospitals, the other passengers to detention barracks, disinfect the ship, and empty all the pipes and tanks containing drinking water. The germs could not be taken ashore, you see, and cholera would soon be cleared out on that particular vessel."

"You had a battle with the disease sixteen years ago?" I said.
"In the past cholera usually originated in Asia. The following year it would appear in European Turkey. It would reach the western part of Europe the next year, and thence, in another trade route, would be brought to the United States or Canada. It was spread by drinking water, just as yellow fever and malaria are spread by mosquitoes. There was cholera in Hamburg, the chief city of Germany, in 1832. The great exposition in Chicago was to be held the next summer. We were not only threatened with a dreadful disease, but with the loss of many millions of dollars."

New Quarantine Measure.
"The situation was so grave that President Harrison came to Washington from his summer home to consult with the Secretary of the Treasury and the Attorney General. We had no national quarantine law worthy of the name at that time. I wrote an order, and President Harrison signed it, holding ships bringing immigrants from infected regions in quarantine for a period of twenty days. The order stopped travel between Hamburg and the United States because a wait of twenty days at anchor made the transportation of immigrants unprofitable as a business. A few vessels came and were held in the bay of New York. My plan may have looked like the return of the ancient Venetian regulation, which required that plague ships be kept at anchor, with no help from on shore, until the disease had run its course. However, we had the means of caring for the sick, as well as the vessel if contagion appeared. The next year Congress enacted a comprehensive law which, although recognizing the rights of States, made the quarantine against disease a matter of national control. We escaped the cholera in 1833 and I am sure we could do so again."

"Can yellow fever be kept out of the Southern States?"
"There never has been and there never will be 100 per cent of safety in quarantine. Activity and watchfulness will always be necessary. However, we know that mosquitoes alone cause the spread of yellow fever. When that surprising fact and elementary fact was established the disease lost all of its mystery and much of its terror. While the germ itself has not as yet been found, we have learned

that yellow fever is infectious only during the first three days of the patient's illness. If the patient is bitten by a mosquito during that period the mosquito is in condition twelve days afterward to bite and infect some one else.

Keep Out the Mosquito.
"Now, the best physician in the world," Gen. Wyman continued, "may not know at first that he has a case of yellow fever on his hands. When he learns the truth the time of infection has passed. Hence it has always been our endeavor to lay stress upon the importance of

About four years ago the District Commissioners requested the public health service to join with the health officer in an endeavor to solve the problem. We appointed a board of experts, and so far have had three reports. It was found that the continued prevalence of typhoid fever could not be charged to the water supply. There was some contamination, however, in the milk sold from certain dairies. In one peculiar instance the customers of a single dairy came down with the disease in unusual numbers. We learned that the dairy was owned by a woman, and that she had much to do

with handling the milk. There had been no recent cases of typhoid fever in her family, and we were greatly perplexed until she told us she had suffered from an attack of the disease several years ago. Well, a microscopic examination showed that she was a 'bacillus carrier,' that while the disease was in her system, she still harbored and distributed the typhoid germs.

Carry Germs About.
"There was a medically famous case of the same kind in New York in the person of 'Typhoid Mary,' a cook, who took disease and death with her wherever she worked. We now more thoroughly appreciate that there are persons who carry the germs of typhoid long after they have left their beds and gone about their usual business or employment. Such persons, if they live in villages or on farms, cause soil pollution, and the drainage from contaminated land goes into wells or streams and may infect the water supply of a locality or city.

"The house fly is undoubtedly an agency in the spread of typhoid fever. People do not realize that flies are a constant menace to the life and health of every household. They are born in manure heaps, and that is the reason so many of them are always seen around the isolated home of the average farmer. City flies are bred under the same loathsome conditions. Female flies deposit their eggs in manure heaps or in piles of decaying garbage. In cities garbage is not permitted to accumulate; consequently the manure heap becomes a matter for close municipal supervision. Screens for doors and windows would keep flies out of houses, but laws should provide that manure should be removed promptly or kept in tight bins or freely treated with lime.

"And while the people are fighting flies," Gen. Wyman said, "they should not overlook the rats. Not only are immense quantities of grain and other property destroyed by rats, but sixteen years ago, lurking in the dark places of ships, they carried the bubonic plague out of China until it spread to the coast of the United States. We trapped and poisoned hundreds of thousands of rats along the Pacific Coast and proved by laboratory tests that a large number of them had the plague."

Getting Acquainted with It.
"Why has appendicitis become such a common disease?"
"It hasn't become a more common disease than it always has been. It is recognized now, you understand, under its proper name and not by another. A simple case of appendicitis to-day would have been diagnosed as something else twenty years ago."

"Isn't modern life harmful to human nerves?"
"Notoriously so," Gen. Wyman answered. "Insanity is increasing. I know of no large city where, according to the statistics, it is decreasing. That city is Berlin, in which there is a system of insurance against illness and men are watched and taken to hospitals before they have a chance to break down. A national association for mental hygiene has been recently formed, and Mr. Henry Phillips, the Pittsburgh multimillionaire, has contributed money for an inquiry into the subject by Johns Hopkins University. The increase of insanity in the United States makes it a vital national question."

"Specifically, what is the greatest cause of disease?"
"Enfeebled health, which makes it easy for microbes to overcome the customary defenses of nature. We know that persons may have the virulent diplococci of pneumonia in their respiratory tracts, but escape illness through the strength of their cells in keeping the microbes from becoming active. It is the same, to a degree, with the bacilli which cause diphtheria. During an epidemic men may be walking around who

have cholera microbes in their intestinal canals. Other men live and work with the bacilli of consumption in their lungs. It is not until they have reached a debilitated, or eat tainted food, or live in insanitary places, they succumb. Within each human being there is an eternal struggle between the germs of disease and his cells."

"If a man were to ask how he could keep in sound health, what would you say to him?"
"I would tell him to eat plenty of good food, wear reasonable clothing, sleep where there is pure, fresh air, get as much sunshine as possible, keep his surroundings sanitary, exercise moderately, maintain a cheerful state of mind, and avoid worry."

Choosing a Profession.
The father of Gen. Wyman, coming to matters which are interestingly personal, was a famous instructor in St. Louis Medical College. I saw a crowd of students in rough clothing, some with their feet against the pillars in the room and a considerable number of them chewing tobacco. But I noticed that every man among them was giving close attention to the lecture. The lecturer apparently had just come in from the bedside of a country patient. His boots were muddy and the collar of his coat was stained with blood. He talked about pneumonia, and the purity of his English and his familiarity with his subject showed that he was both an educated physician and a man of wide learning.

"Before the lecture was over I had decided to be a physician, although I had not previously thought of studying medicine. After being graduated from the St. Louis Medical College, I was made attending physician at an overflow hospital some miles distant in the country. Later I went to the City Hospital, where I remained two years. Physicians came for fasts concerning cholera, and in my office I heard their lectures on such cases at both of the medical colleges."

Worked for Sanitation.
"I was asked while in private practice to assist the physician in charge of the Marine Hospital, who was in feeble health. When he died I came to Washington, passed an examination, and was appointed to the position. I spent three years in St. Louis treating men employed on river boats. There were many cases of pneumonia and consumption among the firemen, who slept near their boilers. Going on deck to get fresh air, they would take cold. In Cincinnati I had a wing in the Good Samaritan Hospital and an office up town. There I took up the cause of the river deck hands. They slept among the freight and were often made ill from exposure. Afterward, at Surgeon General, I obtained legislation bettering the sanitary conditions of the firemen and deck hands, such as sleeping quarters and so on."

"At the end of three years I was transferred to Baltimore, where I interested myself in the welfare of the men employed on river boats. Thence I went to New York for a term of four years, and incidentally to study hospital management. Meanwhile I had made two trips to Europe and had heard lectures in Paris and Vienna. I was appointed to my present position in 1891."

Helping the Consumptives.
"Will you tell me about the government sanatorium for consumptives in New Mexico?"
"I thought a hospital should be provided for men on our ocean, lake, and river vessels who had tuberculosis, not only as a place for medical attention, but for quarantine. The outdoor treatment is good anywhere, but the climate in some regions is much better than in other regions. We were given Fort Stanton, an abandoned military post, after leaving the tubercular cases high and dry, and as remote from a body of water as any spot in the country. We patched up the buildings of the post, and now we have a good hospital, 300 tents in tents, and a number of novelties, including a brass band. When a sailor is ill with consumption we send him to New Mexico, and he travels under sanitary regulations which provide that he shall be provided with a drinking cup of his own. Cases have been cured. Two men, one in Chicago and one in Boston, died from other causes, but the tuberculosis had been cured. Our surgeons found that their lungs had entirely healed. Still other cases have been arrested. When a cure is impossible, the patient is cared for under the most comfortable conditions."

"Have efforts ever been made to establish a hospital for leprosy?"
"No. It is an open question whether leprosy is a bad habit or a disease. Anyway, if it is a disease, it is not a matter for the States and not for the general government."

FOURTH A DAY OF TERROR.
Statistics Show an Appalling List of Accidents from Fireworks.
From the Atlantic Monthly.
It is evident from the comments of the press on the present evils of our Fourth of July that there is a urgent need of a definite control and wise direction of the popular use of this holiday. The roll of dead and wounded for the last ten years, as compiled by the Chicago Tribune, is eloquent in its warning. The figures tell their own story of an insensate and reckless abuse of the day's privileges:

Year.	Dead.	Wounded.	Total.
1908	72	2,733	2,805
1907	78	2,867	2,945
1906	51	1,951	2,002
1905	43	1,839	1,882
1904	58	2,049	2,107
1903	52	2,653	2,705
1902	53	2,776	2,829
1901	35	1,093	1,128
1900	39	2,767	2,806
1899	33	2,154	2,187
Totals	538	23,905	24,443

That these statistics, gathered by July 4, are below the real totals is seen from the tabulations of the Journal of the American Medical Association, made in August, when tetanus had had time to do its dire work:

Year.	Dead.	Wounded.	Total.
1908	103	5,623	5,726
1907	84	4,413	4,497
1906	138	5,586	5,724
1905	182	4,994	5,176
1904	182	4,399	4,581
1903	466	3,983	4,449
Totals	1,253	27,900	29,153

Surely, the sorrow, suffering, and mutilation here represented mock the claim that our Fourth, as at present observed, is in any sense a festive day; rather a day of terror, anxiety, and dread.

A Suggestion.
From the Ladies Home Journal.
"I want a piece of meat without any bone, fat, or gristle," said the bride on her first marketing trip.
"Yes, madam," replied the butcher. "I would suggest that you take an egg."

BIBLICAL INSTITUTE
FOUNDED AT ROME

Pius X Issues Apostolic Letter of Great Import.

FOR STUDY OF SACRED BOOKS

Archaeology, History, Philology and Interpretation Will Be Taken Up in Classes and in the Form of Lectures—Church Dignitaries Will Attend Tercentenary Celebration.

New York, July 2.—Pius X, in his now famous encyclical on Modernism, foreshadowed the approaching establishment of a new international institution to promote the study of true science. He has now issued an apostolic letter, in which he announces the founding of the Pontifical Biblical Institute at Rome.

He declares it to be his aim that there may be in the City of Rome a center for the higher studies relating to the Sacred Books, designed to promote, in the most efficacious way possible, Biblical doctrine, and all the studies connected with it.

The first Biblical matters to be treated are those in which the students are to be prepared for undergoing the examinations before the pontifical Biblical commission, already established by his holiness.

To these shall be added lectures and exercises in special questions relating to the interpretation, introduction, archaeology, history, geography, philology, and other studies appertaining to the Sacred Books. In addition there shall be a methodical and practical system of training for the students, to render them proficient and practiced in the scientific treatment of Biblical disputations. Moreover, to provide for the needs and utility of many, there shall be public conferences on Biblical subjects.

Biblical Library a Feature.
Another very necessary feature is to be the Biblical library, containing the works, both ancient and modern, necessary or useful for insuring true profit in Biblical studies, and for the fruitful completion of the studies of the professors and students in the institute. To this is to be added a Biblical museum, or collection of objects which may appear to be useful for illustrating the Sacred Scriptures and Biblical antiquities.

The third means shall be a series of writings, to be promulgated in the name and by the authority of the institute. Some of them dealing with erudite investigations; others composed for the defense of Catholic truth concerning the Sacred Books, and others designed to propagate far and wide sound teaching on Biblical matters.

The president of the institute is nominated by the supreme pontiff, on the report of the general of the Society of Jesus, who shall propose to him three candidates for the office. The ordinary professors are to be nominated by the general of the Society of Jesus, with the consent of the pope.

The youths engaged in Biblical studies in the institute may belong to three classes: alumni, properly so called; auditors, inscribed on the lists; and free guests, or hospites.

Regular Course of Studies.
All the alumni are to follow regularly the course of studies in the institute, so as to prepare themselves for taking the examinations before the Pontifical Biblical Commission. As auditors, they may be inscribed those who have finished the full course of philosophy and theology. Admission to the lectures shall be open to other students as free guests.

The library shall contain especially the works of the holy fathers and of the more distinguished Catholic writers on Biblical studies. Special attention shall be devoted to the formation of the library to the principal encyclopedias and all the more modern periodicals concerning Biblical matters.

It will be seen that the new institute supplements and completes, as it were, the work of the Pontifical Biblical Commission, and prepares students to take the exceedingly difficult degree of doctor of Sacred Scripture, which the commission confers.

Thus the Catholic church throws her powerful influence into the breach for the maintenance of the respect due to the Holy Bible just at the moment when the so-called higher criticism seeks to tear it all to shreds and tatters.

Dignitaries to Be There.
An appropriate feature of the coming tercentenary celebration of the discovery of Lake Champlain, July 4 to 10, will be the important share which the official programme of the celebration concedes to

the Catholic Summer School at Cliff Haven. Many of the holy and historic memories with which the Champlain Valley is so richly endowed cluster about the Bay of Cliff Haven.

The President and Vice President of the United States, Cardinal Gibbons, and other dignitaries of the church here and in Canada, have engaged to be present at the assembly, during the impressive contribution to the nation's tribute to a leading pioneer explorer in the Western hemisphere. The exercises, which will last a week, will be opened on July 4.

A "Monument Reserve."

Father Julian Paquin, S. J., states that the United States government, on the request of the Most Rev. Archbishop Ireland, has consented to make the site of Fort St. Charles, Minn., a "Monument Reserve." As soon as the Lake of the Woods should thaw out, Father Paquin was to go to the site, identify it officially, and report to the government on a chart sent to him. As he remarks, "The spot will then be forever dedicated to the memory of the pioneers of Christian faith and civilization in this Western country."

It was only last August that several members of the St. Boniface Historical Society, of Manitoba, unearthed, on the shore of the northwest angle of the Lake of the Woods, the skeletons and other remains of Father Aulneau, S. J., young de la Verendrye, son of the discoverer of the Red River Valley, and nineteen companions, massacred by the Sioux in 1738.

This great historical find, one of the most important ever made in America, was the result of researches set on foot by Father Joseph Blain, S. J., almost twenty years ago, and finally carried to a successful issue by himself and Father Julian Paquin, S. J., assisted by Rev. Dr. Beliveau, chancellor of the archdiocese of St. Boniface, and several Jesuit scholars and laybrothers.

ORGAN YIELD OF OLD PAPERS.

Shelburne Falls Girl, Aided by Andrew Carnegie, Raised \$1,500 for a Paper Mill. The proceeds have been made possible the purchase of a \$1,500 pipe organ for the First Methodist Church.

Miss Spencer says it was not hard work, that she liked it, except when some of the people snickered at her for a junk dealer and asked how much she was paying for old papers. The church had offered prizes to the Sunday school children collecting the greatest number of papers, and when the contest was over she had 12,300 pounds to her credit. Her nearest competitor was Eleanor Martin, who gathered 3,300 pounds.

Andrew Carnegie offered the Methodist church, through the Rev. T. C. Martin, then pastor, \$750 if the church would raise as much more for the purchase of a pipe organ. The church was so pleased with the organ and the organ is paid for and was heard for the first time at a recital given Tuesday evening.

RUSSIAN NOBLEMAN'S WOOING.

Posed as a Lady's Maid to Make Acquaintance of a Baroness.

From the Information.
A St. Petersburg paper publishes details of a Russian romance in which figures the wealthy and beautiful Baroness Trusoff, the widow of a distinguished Russian government official.

All the young cavaliers of Moscow were hopelessly in love with her. The baroness, however, rejected all attempts to obtain an introduction to her and lived in perfect seclusion, attended only by an elderly relative. Some months ago a young peasant girl began to visit the residence of the baroness, offering the servants cheap articles for sale. Subsequently the baroness used to buy different articles from the peasant, who was intelligent, had good manners and considerable conversational talent. The baroness eventually asked the girl whether she would enter her service as a lady's maid. She agreed and discharged her duties to perfection for a fortnight and then revealed "herself" as a young Russian nobleman named Maximoff, who taking advantage of his fair hair and complexion, had masqueraded as a domestic servant to break down the barriers with which the beautiful baroness had surrounded herself.

The baroness was so much impressed by his extraordinary perseverance that she became engaged to him and the marriage took place a few days ago.

Doing Well.
From the Democratic Telegram.
"Young man," said a rich and pompous old gentleman, "I was not always thus. I did not always ride in a motor-car of my own. When I first started in life, I had to walk."

"You were lucky," rejoined the young man. "When I first started, I had to crawl. It took me a long time to learn to walk."

GAMBLERS' BOMB-THROWING WAR.

Thirty-one bombs have been thrown in the war among the Chicago gamblers. Several persons have been killed, and property worth hundreds of thousands of dollars destroyed. Following is the list:

1907.
July 2—John Condon's residence, 2628 Michigan avenue.
July 2—John F. O'Malley's saloon, Clark and Kinzie streets.
July 2—Mont Tennes' garage, 404 Holden avenue.
August 12—James O'Leary's saloon, 4138 Halsted street.
August 19—Mont Tennes' home, 404 Holden avenue.
August 25—Carroll's saloon, 197 Kinzie street.
September 1—Former Sheriff Pease's home, 1232 Dover street.
September 14—Stanley R. Graham's paint store, 149 North State street.
September 24—Forest Park Station of Wisconsin Central Railroad.
September 27—Mont Tennes' cash register store, 125 Clark street.
October 1—John A. Rogers' saloon, Madison and May streets.
October 2—Small clearing house near Forest Park station.
October 6—John F. O'Malley's saloon, Kinzie and North Clark streets.

1908.
January 23—Patrick O'Malley's saloon, Polk and Clark streets.
January 25—Edward Brennan's saloon, 6310 Cottage Grove avenue.
July 9—Smith & Perry's saloon, 202 State street.
July 17—John A. Rogers' saloon, Madison and May streets.
July 20—James J. Corbett's saloon, 258 State street.
July 25—National Hotel, 25 Van Buren street.
October 15—James O'Leary's saloon, 4138 Halsted street.
October 20—John A. Rogers' saloon, Madison and May streets.
October 21—Mont Tennes' saloon, 135 Center avenue.
October 23—Honey Marcus' saloon, 242 West Fourteenth street.
October 31—Edward Brennan's saloon, 6310 Cottage Grove avenue.
November 26—James O'Leary's saloon, 4138 Halsted street.
December 2—John Gazzolo's saloon, 461 West Madison street.
December 12—Coliseum Annex, 1430 Wabash avenue.
December 18—John Morris' saloon, 239 Twenty-second street.

1909.
May 31—Southern Whist Club, 261 Wabash avenue.
June 25—Manning & Bowes' saloon, 321 State street.
June 27—Mont Tennes' cash register store, Chicago Telephone Company, and Powers & Gilbert's saloon, Clark street, between Madison and Washington streets.

"FIELD OF HONOR"
NOW A COW PATH

Ancient Bladensburg Little More Than a Memory.

FAMOUS DUELS FOUGHT HERE

"Dark and bloody ground," just across District Line in Maryland, Only a Mass of Tangled Thickets. Admiral Decatur Victim of Meeting with Commodore Barron.

Six miles northeast of Washington, on the eastern bank of the Anacostia branch of the Potomac, and on the old Turnpike road connecting Washington with Baltimore, stands ancient Bladensburg. It is not only the oldest of all the hamlets that had life and heroic history before the war of the Revolution, but it is now the deadest.

It is probable that not one-half the population of Washington of to-day ever heard of Bladensburg. And yet a short half mile across the District of Columbia, and on an invisible line of the State of Maryland, in the midst of tangled thickets and the fantastic drapery of vines, wreathed in the ancient trees, is the famous old dueling ground. Here the most famous duels were fought, the most desperate and fatal ever known on the Western continent. It is rightly named the "dark and bloody ground." It lies in a deep valley surrounded on all sides by high hills. There is a narrow cow-path now across the "field of honor," where men of blood and iron settled all questions of honor with blood instead of organizing an Annapolis club.

Thirty Duels Fought There.
More than thirty duels were fought on this fatal spot. As early as 1814, Capt. Edward Hopkins, of Maryland, then an ensign of infantry, was slain here in a duel with swords. On February 4, 1838, a desperate and fatal duel was fought here between two famous Virginians, both of the F. F. V. pedigree—Gen. Mason, formerly United States Senator, and Col. John M. McCarty. They were second cousins, and had quarreled over a political matter. McCarty first challenged Mason, but Mason declined on account of the conditions. Afterward, when Mason was riding through Richmond, Va., in a stage, with Gen. Anderson Jackson, of Tennessee, the general told Mason he should now challenge McCarty.

When McCarty received the challenge, he accepted and named the conditions. Anderson Jackson and McCarty should meet on the great dome of the Capitol, 22 feet above the ground. These terms were declined as against the code duello. Then McCarty proposed bowie knives, close range, which was also declined. The next proposition was muskets loaded with buckshot, ten feet apart. These terms Mason accepted. At 8 a. m. Mason and McCarty met on this fatal field. At first fire Mason fell dead, and McCarty was severely wounded in the right arm, but recovered—disabled for life.

Admiral Decatur Killed.
The next most famous duel was on March 22, 1820, between Admiral Stephen Decatur and James Barron, a commodore of the navy. Admiral Decatur was then in the full vigor of his manhood and at the zenith of his fame. The cause of this duel was as follows:

In 1807 Commodore Barron was in command of the U. S. Frigate Chesapeake. On meeting the British ship Leopard, he allowed several of his seamen, claimed as British deserters, to be taken from his decks without firing a gun, and this was one of the incidents that brought on the war of 1812 between the United States and England. Admiral Decatur was chosen by British admirals to fight with Barron as one of the members of the court-martial that found Commodore Barron guilty. After the court-martial Barron challenged Admiral Decatur to deadly combat. The duel was fought with pistols, eight paces apart. Both fired at the same instant and both fell at first fire. Admiral Decatur died at 11 o'clock that night, but Barron survived. A leading authority on the subject following the next morning:

"Commodore Stephen Decatur, the pride of his country, the noblest gentleman, is no more. Mourn, Columbia, for one of thy brightest stars is set."

Seven Prove Fatal.
To give details of the seven fatal duels fought on this same spot would make this letter too long. It was on this bloody ground that Henry Clay fought his notorious duel.

As to dueling in general, it came to us from across the Atlantic, but it was the bloody game of the gentleman of hot blood in this country for fifty years preceding the civil war.

Dueling originated in the age of chivalry. Chivalrous duels, however, were seldom fatal, as knights fought each other in full armor of steel. Neither did they have any Annapolis clubs in the fourteenth century, and it was dangerous to fight duels either with lance or broadsword.

In 1330, 529 years ago, a duel was fought at Westminster, England, between a knight and a squire, both in full armor. They became so exhausted that when they closed and fell they had to be lifted from the ground by their seconds, on account of "that tired feeling." The next day the squire died from exhaustion, and the chronicles of the period wrote: "He died to the delight of the people and the grief of all traitors."

Great Tobacco Mart.
But old Bladensburg, that was once a smart town with 1,500 people, has other renown besides bloodshedding. It was a great tobacco mart long before the War of the Revolution, when the Eastern branch of the Potomac was navigable, and sloops and ships loaded tobacco on the docks at Bladensburg to make sail direct to Liverpool, across the Atlantic. At Bladensburg still stands as a live hostility the "George Washington Hotel," that has been kept continuously as a hotel for 177 years. It is a two-story brick structure, plastered and painted white, with a projecting balcony on second story, and a large board sign swung in front, with a faded and battered head of the immortal George, that looks to be at least 100 years old. A tower projects above the center of the building, which is painted in bold, black letters: "George Washington Hotel, Established 1732." During the War of the Revolution, George Washington stopped over night at this hotel on his way from Mount Vernon to his army.

Everything that Oliver Goldsmith said of the "Deserted Village" can be said (with all the pathos of the pauper poets) of old Bladensburg, as it looks to-day—decaying and tottering to its death.

And dueling in the United States is deadlier than Bladensburg, and ought to be. ISAAC B. SHERWOOD.